(a) considering expanding usage of the radiation technologies in industrial, diagnostic and medicinal purposes, whether all such installations are required to obtain license from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB);

(b) whether it is also a fact that AERB is supposed to conduct regular inspections of such installations;

(c) if so, whether AERB has sufficient strength of skilled professionals to carry out its mandate;

(d) the details of staff strength of AERB; and

(e) if not, the steps that are being taken to strengthen AERB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Presently AERB has a scientific and technical staff strength of 171 personnel. Considering the projected expansion of nuclear power and the expanding use of radiation technologies in the country in Industrial, diagnostic and medical applications, the Government has recently sanctioned addition of 103 scientific and technical staff in AERB. Action for induction of the sanctioned additional staff in AERB has been initiated.

Licence for using radioactive substances

2311. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is the apex body to grant licences to the installation using radiation or radio active substances;

(b) considering expanding usage of the radiation technologies in industrial, diagnostic and medicinal purposes, whether all such installations are required to obtain licence from AERB;

(c) if so, whether AERB has requisite decentralized set up at selection locations in the country; and

(d) if not, whether the AERB consider setting up its branches at select locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Presently the work of reviewing applications and grant of licenses is being done by the AERB office located in Mumbai. However, considering the projected expansion of nuclear power and the expanding usage of radiation technologies in industrial, diagnostic and medical applications, AERB has initiated action for establishing two regional centres; one in Kolkata and the other in Chennai/Kalpakkam under its expansion project in the Eleventh Plan.